VOLUME I · ISSUE NO. 08

THE PRE-MARKET

A Sunday Read

A Weekly Sentiment & Event-Driven Brief

Sunday, July 12, 2026 · For the week of July 13 – 17

CONFIDENCE SCORE

8.0+	6.5–7.9	5.0–6.4	3.5–4.9	<3.5
Strongly Bullish	Positive	Neutral	Cautious ◂	Bearish

"A crowded Tuesday — CPI at 8:30, Warsh at 10:00, five banks before the bell. Rarely does a single morning settle this many arguments."

IN THIS ISSUE

I

The Week Ahead

A letter from the desk · July 13 – 17, 2026

Last week the tape split in two. The S&P 500 added 1.2%, NVIDIA and Meta ripped back to recent highs, and yet whole corners of speculative growth — space, quantum, low-float drones — fell 9% to 24%. Quality led while beta bled, and that divergence, not the index level, is the real story we carry into this week. When the average stock and the leadership stocks disagree this loudly, one of them is usually early.

The verdict likely arrives Tuesday, July 14. June CPI hits at 8:30 AM ET, Chair Warsh delivers his first Humphrey-Hawkins testimony at 10:00, and all five money-center banks report before the bell — the most compressed answer-per-hour session of the summer. With markets pricing roughly a 70% chance of a September hike, a hot core print with Warsh live at the microphone is the week's clearest downside scenario. That risk, stacked on a weekend where Hormuz passage itself is contested, pushes the Confidence Score to 4.9 — just inside the Cautious band.

> *"With the 30-year above 5%, speculative duration is on trial. Tuesday morning decides whether the verdict is washout or slow bleed."*

Two stabilizers are worth naming. First, the bank earnings setup is genuinely strong — trading desks had a volatile quarter to monetize and the SpaceX IPO fee pool flatters advisory lines, so Tuesday's prints could anchor the tape even if macro wobbles. Second, the momentum unwind has been orderly: UBS calls it "a de-risking exercise, not forced liquidation," and breadth outside speculative growth actually improved. This looks like rotation under stress, not distribution.

SCORE COMPONENTS

CALENDAR	6.0 / 10	*Bank kickoff + CPI; World Cup semis*
SENTIMENT	5.0 / 10	*Momentum correction; retail cooling*
MACRO / FED	4.0 / 10	*CPI + Warsh testimony; 30Y above 5%*
EVENT CATALYST	4.5 / 10	*Bank prints vs. Hormuz, yen risks*

Composite Confidence Score (CCS) = 0.25 × Calendar + 0.25 × Sentiment + 0.30 × Macro + 0.20 × Event Catalyst. Score interpretation: 8.0+ Strongly Bullish · 6.5–7.9 Positive · 5.0–6.4 Neutral · 3.5–4.9 Cautious · <3.5 Bearish.

II

The Macro Calendar

Scheduled data and Fed communications this week

Tuesday dominates: June CPI at 8:30 AM ET and Chair Warsh's first Humphrey-Hawkins testimony ninety minutes later, with all five money-center banks reporting before the bell. Under Warsh's no-forward-guidance regime his live congressional answers carry unusual weight — expect sharper intraday reactions to any hawkish or dovish inflection than under prior Fed chairs.

DAY	RELEASE	IMPORTANCE	THE READ
Tue Jul 14	JUNE CPI · 8:30 AM ET	HIGH	Main swing factor of the week.
Tue Jul 14	WARSH TESTIMONY · 10:00 AM	HIGH	First Humphrey-Hawkins, live mic.
Wed Jul 15	PPI + Beige Book	Moderate	Pipeline-inflation confirmation.
Thu Jul 16	Retail Sales	Moderate	Consumer pulse; +0.3% expected.
Thu Jul 16	Initial Jobless Claims	Moderate	215K prior; labor-crack watch.
Fri Jul 17	Industrial Production	Low	Secondary market mover.
Fri Jul 17	Consumer Sentiment (P)	Moderate	Retail confidence check-in.

STANDING FED-RISK RULES

- Smacro defaults to 5.0 on no-Fed-data weeks.
- Smacro capped at 4.0—4.5 the week before an FOMC meeting.
- Smacro capped at 3.5—4.0 the week before a SEP / dot-plot meeting (Sep & Dec).
- Warsh's rejection of forward guidance is treated as a structural uncertainty discount.

MACRO RISK WATCH · FOUR STRESS POINTS

- **Yen carry stress — ¥162 and counting.**
  USD/JPY closed Friday at ¥161.66 after touching ¥162 intraday — the weakest yen in roughly 40 years. A viral X account claiming to leak BOJ policy is unverified noise, but the stress underneath is real: SocGen's Albert Edwards calls it a "slow-motion currency crisis." August 2024 is the unwind precedent. BOJ meets July 30—31; markets price ~98% odds of no change — which is exactly why a surprise would hit so hard.

- **Iran — Hormuz is contested, not closed.**
  The ceasefire is officially "over." After tit-for-tat strikes — US hits on Iranian military targets, Iranian fire at US bases in Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait — the strait is functionally contested: transits are near 34/day vs. ~150 pre-war, Tehran is threatening ships that skip its "approved" route, and the US Navy is running a rival corridor. A US deadline for Iran to publicly declare the strait open expired Saturday; Sunday's 6 PM ET futures open is the first tradable verdict.

- **The 30-year above 5%.**
  The long bond closed Friday at 5.07%, its highest sustained territory since 2007; the May 2026 cycle peak was ~5.19%. Every basis point up there compresses long-duration cash flows — the direct discount mechanism behind last week's speculative-growth pullback.

- **SK Hynix ADR tests memory liquidity.**
  The $26.5B Nasdaq debut priced July 10 at $149, seven times oversubscribed — ~58% HBM share at ~5.5x forward earnings vs. Micron's ~6.7x. With MU and SNDK 22—28% off June peaks, a bigger, cheaper pure-play comp now competes for the marginal dollar that has been holding memory prices up.

III

Event Drivers

Sentiment catalysts & the watch list

The defining feature of last week was divergence. NVIDIA gained 8.3% and Meta 14.8% while speculative growth fell 9–24%, and the iShares momentum factor (MTUM) sits roughly 10% below its June 22 high — a textbook momentum-factor correction hiding under a green index. Strength in selected laggards (Akamai +11.5%, money-center banks) confirms money rotated rather than left.

The rationale is mechanical, not mysterious: with the 30-year above 5% and roughly 70% September-hike odds, long-duration speculative cash flows get discounted hardest, and desks de-risked into Tuesday's CPI-plus-Warsh gauntlet. Both UBS and Goldman note they "haven't seen panic mode" — the unwind is orderly. Orderly, however, is not the same as finished.

WATCH LIST

Supporting the tape

- Bank earnings setup — trading revenue + SpaceX IPO fees
- Megacap leadership — NVDA, META back at recent highs
- Unwind orderly — UBS: "de-risking, not forced liquidation"
- NFLX analyst floor — 84.6% still bullish into Thursday
- In-line CPI clears the deck into the Jul 28–29 FOMC

Threats to the setup

- Hot core CPI with Warsh live at 10:00 — the worst case
- 30Y above 5% — long-duration compression continues
- Yen at ¥162 — carry-unwind tail risk building
- Hormuz contested — transits ~75% below pre-war norms
- Memory liquidity vs. fresh SK Hynix ADR supply

SECTOR PLAYBOOK BY CHANNEL

CHANNEL	SECTOR BENEFICIARY	KEY TICKERS
Bank prints Tuesday	Money-centers, brokers, exchanges	JPM, GS, MS
Cool CPI	Rate-sensitives, homebuilders, growth	XHB, QQQ, IWM
Hot CPI + hawkish Warsh	Staples, quality yield, low beta	XLP, XLV, USMV
Memory stress spreads	Watch, don't chase	MU, SNDK, SOXX

THE DIVERGENCE SCOREBOARD · last week's split tape

META	NVDA	IONQ	RKLB
+14.8%	+8.3%	−12.7%	−19.3%
AI-cloud monetization follow-through	Core AI leadership bid, recent highs	Quantum beta, short-seller overhang	Space unwind, momentum de-risk

Weekly returns measured July 2 close to July 10 close, via Perplexity Finance. Deutsche Bank counts declines of 20%+ across momentum names with "nobody hitting the panic button." Laggard strength (Akamai +11.5%, money-center banks) alongside megacap highs reads as rotation, not exit.

IV

Last Week's Movers

Last week's biggest winners & losers · the why behind the moves

Last week's tape (Jul 6 – 10) printed a calm +1.2% on the S&P over one of the most violent rotations of the year. Core AI leadership and money-center banks ripped while space, quantum and low-float speculation was taken apart — the same index, two entirely different markets. Below: the five biggest moves in each direction and the catalysts — or lack of them — behind each. Weekly returns measured Thu Jul 2 close to Fri Jul 10 close. On each card, the rail spans the 52-week range (via Perplexity Finance): the shaded segment traces last week's move; the dot marks Friday's close.

THE WEEK'S BIGGEST WINNERS

META *Meta Platforms*

▲ 14.81%

$582.90 $669.21

CATALYST · AI-CLOUD MONETIZATION FOLLOW-THROUGH

52W $520.26 — $796.25

The Bloomberg report that Meta will resell excess GPU capacity as a commercial AI-cloud kept working for a second week — the market is repricing the capex build-out from cost center to revenue line. Friday alone added +5.97%, back at recent highs; capital leaving high-beta AI proxies is landing here.

NVDA *NVIDIA*

▲ 8.28%

$194.83 $210.96

CATALYST · CORE AI LEADERSHIP BID

52W $162.02 — $236.54

The core holding reasserted itself, reclaiming the $210 pivot we flagged in Issue No. 07 with a +4.03% Friday close at the week's high. While second-derivative AI plays were being liquidated, the market crowded back into the one name where the earnings are real and enormous. Old resistance at $205–210 now reads as support; the Jun–Jul high at $224 is the next objective.

AMD *Advanced Micro Devices*

▲ 7.74%

$517.82 $557.89

CATALYST · AI SEMI SYMPATHY + RETAIL ROTATION

52W $141.90 — $584.73

Rode the NVDA slipstream with a retail kicker — WSB mentions up roughly 70% as the crowd rotated from busted momentum names toward semis with real earnings power. No fresh company-specific catalyst; this was flow — and it kept AMD near its highs while the speculative AI tier fell double digits.

TSLA *Tesla*

▲ 3.64%

$393.45 $407.76

CATALYST · PRE-EARNINGS POSITIONING

52W $297.82 — $498.83

Constructive drift into the Jul 22 print. UBS lifted its target to $442 (Jul 9) and RBC to $500 (Jul 7), and the stock reclaimed $400 without a single high-volume session — quiet accumulation rather than chase. The setup into earnings is balanced: 48% of covering analysts bullish, consensus target barely above spot. The options market, not the tape, will pick the direction next week.

GS *Goldman Sachs*

▲ 3.35%

$1021.00 $1055.18

CATALYST · BANK EARNINGS SETUP

52W $691.30 — $1,125.00

Banks caught a genuine pre-earnings bid: a volatile trading quarter to monetize plus the SpaceX IPO fee pool flattering advisory lines. BofA raised its target to $1,150 on Jul 7. The tension: GS now trades at the Street's consensus target — Tuesday must deliver the quarter the price already paid for.

IV *cont.* · *Last Week's Movers*

THE WEEK'S BIGGEST LOSERS

RKLB *Rocket Lab*

▼ 19.33%
$100.46 $81.04

CATALYST · SPACE-COMPLEX MOMENTUM UNWIND

52W $37.57 $151.00

The week's ugliest, and the poster child of the divergence. No negative company news — this was pure positioning, the residual SpaceX-IPO halo deflating as desks de-risked long-duration stories. WSB mentions fell roughly 37% alongside the price: retail didn't buy this dip, it left. A 19% weekly decline on no news is what a crowded trade looks like when the marginal buyer steps away.

UMAC *Unusual Machines*

▼ 14.81%
$22.08 $18.81

CATALYST · LOW-FLOAT DRONE DE-RISK

52W $7.25 $34.36

Friday's −9.26% capped a week where the entire drone complex was repriced — see this issue's Deep Dive. Nothing broke at the company level; low-float names simply cannot hold altitude when momentum capital rotates out. Still up massively from the spring, and still the highest-torque U.S.-components drone story on the board — in both directions.

ASTS *AST SpaceMobile*

▼ 13.87%
$85.13 $73.32

CATALYST · SPACE BETA, NO NEWS

52W $36.08 $133.86

Collateral damage in the same space unwind that hit RKLB. The Japan commercial-service story and the carrier-partnership pipeline are unchanged — what changed is the market's willingness to pay for 2028 cash flows with the 30-year above 5%. That is the whole story: a duration repricing wearing a satellite costume.

IONQ *IonQ*

▼ 12.74%
$49.12 $42.86

CATALYST · QUANTUM UNWIND + LEGAL OVERHANG

52W $25.89 $84.64

The June short-seller report and its legal aftermath (−26.1% last month) left the name with no cushion when the momentum factor rolled over. Now compounding: IONQ has slipped off the WSB mention leaderboard entirely — the retail sponsorship that powered the spring run is gone. Quantum remains a 2030s story trading on 2026 liquidity.

NFLX *Netflix*

▼ 5.51%
$77.65 $73.37

CATALYST · PRE-EARNINGS ANALYST CUTS

52W $70.86 $127.75

Citi trimmed its target from $115 to $100 (Jul 9) and Bernstein from $110 to $100 (Jul 8) into Thursday's print; Friday closed −2.78%, within sight of the 52-week low at $70.86. The crowding problem: 84.6% of covering analysts are still bullish with a consensus target ~58% above spot. When everyone is already long the recovery, misses get expensive — Thursday is binary.

The read. One theme, five expressions: quality over speculation. The winners have current earnings (META, NVDA, GS); the losers have stories dated 2028 and beyond. That is a duration trade, not a verdict on any individual company — which is why we'd call it rotation rather than a bearish exit. The unresolved question is whether last week was the washout or the first installment. Tuesday's CPI decides: a cool print likely marks the low in the speculative tier; a hot one turns an orderly de-risking into something faster.

V

Retail Watch

Reading the WallStreetBets tape · mention velocity & sentiment

MU is still the most-mentioned ticker on the board, but the tone has shifted: memory-trade mention volume is decelerating (MU −13%, SNDK −17% over the past day) while NVDA mentions re-accelerate, up 104%. Retail is running the same rotation as the institutions — out of busted momentum, back toward core AI. Note what's missing: IONQ, a fixture of the spring leaderboard, has dropped off entirely.

MU
$979.30
▲ 0.38%

MEMORY

Still #1 by mention volume, but decelerating — mentions −13% as the memory trade cools.

NVDA
$210.96
▲ 8.28%

AI CORE

Mentions +104% — retail re-crowding the core AI name as speculative proxies get sold.

NFLX
$73.37
▼ 5.51%

PRE-EARNINGS

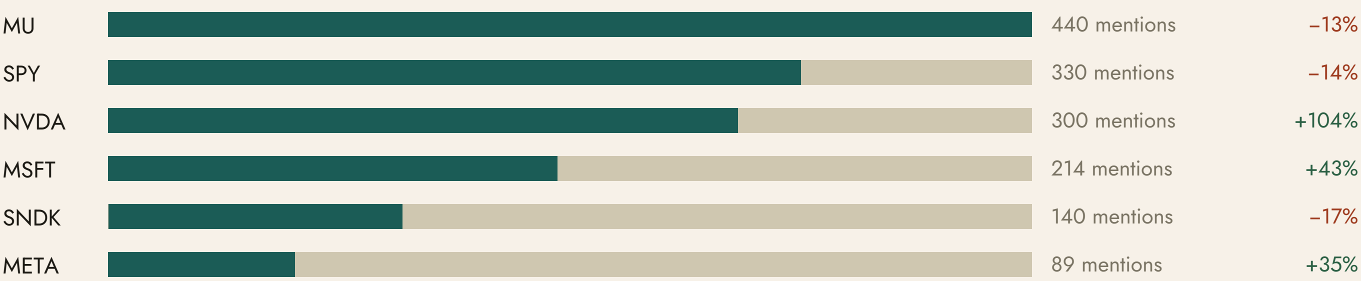
+1,216% mention spike into Thursday's print — the board's earnings gamble of the week.

SNDK
$1,915.92
+830% YTD

MEMORY

Bernstein's $3,000 target (Jul 1) keeps the memory faithful engaged; mentions −17%.

MENTION LEADERBOARD · r/wallstreetbets, past 24 hours (ApeWisdom)



UNDER THE RADAR · climbing the leaderboard

TICKER	24H MENTION Δ	TONE	WHY IT'S SHOWING UP
NFLX	+1,216%	Neutral	Earnings-week gamble: analyst cuts vs. 52-week-low bounce hunters.
IREN	+417%	Bullish	AI data-center power play; capacity-expansion chatter.
ORCL	+147%	Mixed	"Buy the crash" threads after OpenAI capex jitters hit the multiple.
WEN	+108%	Bullish	Squeeze setup chatter — short interest near 34% of float.

> *The read. Retail is not fighting the rotation — it is following it. The fastest riser on the leaderboard is the market's biggest company, while the spring's speculative darlings bleed mentions along with price. Bull/bear splits were unavailable this week, so read the bars as attention, not conviction. The NFLX spike is the classic pre-earnings casino. Treat the whole section as a sentiment signal, not a buy list.*

Mention counts and 24-hour deltas from ApeWisdom and AltIndex; tone read from thread-level sentiment on Quiver Quant and SwaggyStocks. Prices as of July 10, 2026 close.

VI

Options Radar

Friday's most aggressive out-of-the-money call bets · a new weekly scan

New this issue, and recurring every week: a scan of Friday's closing options tape for the highest-volume, aggressively out-of-the-money call buying in individual stocks — weekly and monthly expiries where the money must be right soon. It is the cleanest public print of how big money is positioning into the coming week(s). Four names stood out on July 10.

MRNA
Moderna, Inc.

JUL 17 · $72 & $77 CALLS

3.5 : 1 CALL/PUT · STRIKES 5.5–12.8% OTM · STOCK –10.8% FRIDAY

Call buyers swept in while the stock was crashing to $68.27 — classic bottom-fish flow. A rebound bet on a broken chart, not a trend call.

CRWV
CoreWeave, Inc.

AUG 21 · $100 CALLS (+ JUL 17 & SEP 18 PRINTS)

8 OF LAST 10 UNUSUAL PRINTS WERE CALLS · 12.5% OTM VS $88.88 CLOSE

Friday-afternoon call prints laddered from July out to September; the August $100 line — 12.5% above spot — is where open interest sits at 28,000 contracts.

WFC
Wells Fargo & Co.

JUL CALLS · EARNINGS TUE 7/14 PRE-MARKET

6.8 : 1 CALL/PUT · JULY IV 46 VS 52-WEEK RANGE OF 22–43

The most lopsided tape among the money-center banks reporting Tuesday — calls ran nearly 7-to-1 over puts, with July volatility bid above its entire 52-week range.

ITT
ITT Inc.

JUL 17 · $210 CALLS

1,900 CONTRACTS FLAGGED FRIDAY · 7.7% OTM VS $195.00 CLOSE

A quiet industrial with a loud tape — a concentrated block bought as shares rose, five trading days from expiry. The buyer needs the move now, not eventually.

ALSO ON THE TAPE

- **Oracle (ORCL) — dip-buying via calls.**
  Calls outpaced puts 4.3-to-1 on 508,000 contracts in Friday's early tape (still 2.5-to-1 by mid-session) as shares slipped 2.5% to $140.68 — buyers reaching for calls instead of stock.

- **Micron (MU) — the counter-signal.**
  The heaviest options tape on the board, but flow tilted toward July and August downside protection as the memory complex repositions around SK Hynix's debut. Big money is hedging memory, not chasing it — see Macro Risk Watch, page 3.

> *The read. Friday's aggressive call money went to rebound trades and event trades — a crashed biotech, AI infrastructure, banks into earnings — while the memory complex bought insurance. That is selective conviction, not broad greed, and it fits a 4.9 Confidence Score week: lean into specific catalysts, keep the index bravado at home.*

Flow from Market Rebellion IV reports (Jul 10), TrendSpider unusual-options prints and CNBC options coverage; underlying prices via Perplexity Finance, as of the July 10, 2026 close. High call volume signals positioning, not certainty — large prints can be closing sales, spread legs, or hedges.

VII

Upcoming Earnings

The sentiment-moving prints on the docket

Only the highest-signal earnings this quarter. Current prices as of the July 10, 2026 close. Analyst consensus targets show average target and upside/downside vs. current price. Recent target changes and rating actions surface where the analyst tape is moving.

JPM *JPMorgan Chase & Co.*

THIS WEEK
Tue Jul 14 · pre-market

CURRENT PRICE	ANALYST TARGET (avg)	IMPLIED UPSIDE	TARGET RANGE
$336.47	$356.83	▲ 6.1%	$320 – $408
Jul 10 close	n = 12 analysts	58% bullish rated	high · low

RECENT ANALYST ACTIONS

DATE	FIRM	ACTION	TARGET
Jul 7	B of A	Maintains Buy	$408 ▲
Jul 7	UBS	Maintains Buy	$384 ▲
Jul 6	Evercore ISI	Maintains Outperform	$360 ▲
Jul 6	Wells Fargo	Maintains Overweight	$360 ▲

TRAJECTORY · Clear upward tape into the print — four raises in the past week alone.
SENTIMENT IMPACT · HIGH — market bellwether, sets Tuesday's tone

GS *Goldman Sachs Group*

THIS WEEK
Tue Jul 14 · pre-market

CURRENT PRICE	ANALYST TARGET (avg)	IMPLIED UPSIDE	TARGET RANGE
$1,055.18	$1,052.15	▼ 0.3%	$900 – $1,195
Jul 10 close	n = 13 analysts	38% bullish rated	high · low

RECENT ANALYST ACTIONS

DATE	FIRM	ACTION	TARGET
Jul 7	B of A	Maintains Buy	$1,150 ▲
Jul 7	UBS	Maintains Neutral	$1,120 ▲
Jul 6	Evercore ISI	Maintains Outperform	$1,075 ▲
Jun 29	Morgan Stanley	Maintains Equal-Weight	$1,099 ▲

TRAJECTORY · Targets rising, but the price rose faster — now trades at consensus.
SENTIMENT IMPACT · High — trading + advisory read for the whole group

NFLX *Netflix, Inc.*

THIS WEEK
Thu Jul 16 · after close

CURRENT PRICE	ANALYST TARGET (avg)	IMPLIED UPSIDE	TARGET RANGE
$73.37	$115.85	▲ 57.9%	$95 — $151
Jul 10 close	n = 26 analysts	85% bullish rated	high · low

RECENT ANALYST ACTIONS

DATE	FIRM	ACTION	TARGET
Jul 9	Citigroup	Maintains Buy	$100 ▼
Jul 8	Bernstein	Maintains Outperform	$100 ▼
May 18	B of A	Reiterates Buy	$125
May 15	Guggenheim	Reiterates Buy	$120

TRAJECTORY · Two cuts this week into the print; 85% of 26 analysts still bullish.
SENTIMENT IMPACT · HIGH — biggest implied upside, binary Thursday

TSLA *Tesla, Inc.*

NEXT WEEK
Wed Jul 22 · after close

CURRENT PRICE	ANALYST TARGET (avg)	IMPLIED UPSIDE	TARGET RANGE
$407.76	$425.42	▲ 4.3%	$25 — $600
Jul 10 close	n = 21 analysts	48% bullish rated	high · low

RECENT ANALYST ACTIONS

DATE	FIRM	ACTION	TARGET
Jul 9	UBS	Maintains Neutral	$442 ▲
Jul 7	RBC	Maintains Outperform	$500 ▲
Jul 2	Truist	Maintains Hold	$430 ▲
Jul 2	Freedom Broker	Maintains Hold	$420 ▲

TRAJECTORY · Targets drifting up pre-earnings — UBS $442 and RBC $500 this week.
SENTIMENT IMPACT · High — moves the whole EV complex

ON THE HORIZON

Megacap Tech Week — July 27 to 31, bracketing the July 28–29 FOMC meeting. MSFT, GOOGL, META, AAPL, and AMZN all print within five sessions of a live rate decision. A clean sweep of beats plus a hold confirms the year-end bull case; a single top-three miss with Warsh hawkish risks multiple compression across growth. That's the next real Confidence Score inflection.

VIII

Deep Dive · Drones

One story from a niche corner · what changed this week

THE 60-SECOND PRIMER

Washington has made drone dominance official policy — Executive Order 14307 directs agencies to "unleash American drone dominance" — but procurement reality lags the promise: the FAA's Part 108 rule for routine beyond-visual-line-of-sight flight is still a proposal, not law. These stocks trade in the gap between the promise and the paperwork.

That gap produced last week's paradox: nearly every name in the complex reported genuinely positive news — and every one fell double digits anyway. When good news can't lift a group, the selling is positioning, not fundamentals. This was a washout of crowded momentum money — the drone-flavored expression of the divergence running through this entire issue.

WHAT MOVED THIS WEEK

- AeroVironment — record backlog, falling knife.
  Won a ~$500M Army counter-UAS IDIQ (Domestic Shield — a ceiling, not committed revenue), an $80.5M task order, a $30.9M Bundeswehr Puma award, and guided FY2027 revenue to $2.125–2.225B. Fell 24% anyway: June's restatement (~$89M of understated Space-segment losses) and a July 27 class-action deadline cap the multiple.

- Kratos — the quality expression, still down 12.9%.
  Broke ground on a 100,000 sq ft Oklahoma City expansion; Ark Invest bought $9.1M of stock into the weakness. The group's cleanest balance sheet and most diversified backlog didn't matter in a factor unwind.

- Red Cat & Ondas — small-cap torque cuts both ways.
  Red Cat's Teal unit advances to the Army's Gauntlet II evaluation at Fort Carson in August; Ondas closed the $875.8M DZYNE acquisition and raised guidance to $525M — Needham still cut its target to $19, and short interest sits near 36%.

- The China chokepoint.
  Every re-shoring thesis runs through one constraint: roughly 95% of small-drone motors and batteries and 98% of rare-earth magnet processing are Chinese-controlled. Domestic-component names (UMAC) carry the biggest policy torque — and the thinnest floats.

WHERE THEY TRADE · 1-YEAR & 3-YEAR CONTEXT

NAME		LAST	1W	1M	1Y H	1Y L	3Y H	VS 3Y H
AVAV	AeroVironment	$144.58	▼ 24.3%	▼ 15.2%	$408.99	$135.72	$408.99	▼ 64.6%
KTOS	Kratos Defense	$48.19	▼ 12.9%	▼ 16.6%	$132.00	$46.04	$132.00	▼ 63.5%
RCAT	Red Cat Holdings	$8.83	▼ 15.4%	▼ 21.0%	$18.78	$5.77	$18.78	▼ 53.0%
ONDS	Ondas Holdings	$7.26	▼ 2.0%	▼ 22.2%	$15.10	$2.01	$15.10	▼ 51.9%
UMAC	Unusual Machines	$18.81	▼ 14.8%	▼ 23.0%	$32.36	$7.25	$32.36	▼ 41.9%

> *The read. Five names, five different stories, one identical chart — that is a factor washout, not five broken theses. AVAV's restatement is the one genuine caution flag; treat it as such until the class-action picture clears. KTOS remains the quality expression of the theme. The small caps are where the policy torque lives — sized as speculation, never as core. The accumulation window opens when good news starts moving prices again; AVAV's next task-order announcement is the tell.*

IX

Crypto Corner · Circle

One idea from digital assets, explained in plain English · structural, not tradable

THE NEWS

On Friday, July 10, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency granted Circle — the company behind the USDC stablecoin — final approval to open First National Digital Currency Bank, N.A., operating as Circle National Trust. That converts the conditional charter Circle won in December 2025 into an operating one, and makes Circle one of the first crypto-native companies to run a nationally chartered US bank.

THE PLAIN-ENGLISH PRIMER · FOUR TERMS THAT EXPLAIN THE STORY

- **Stablecoin.**
  A digital token engineered to always be worth one dollar, backed by a reserve of cash and short-term assets. USDC is the largest US-regulated one. Think of it as a dollar that settles like email — 24/7, near-instant, programmable.

- **National trust bank.**
  A bank chartered by the OCC to hold and safeguard assets — fiduciary custody — rather than take retail deposits or make loans. It places Circle under the same federal supervisor as the national banking system, starting with custody for Circle and its affiliates, then a limited set of institutions.

- **The USDC reserve.**
  The pool of assets backing every token one-for-one. The charter is structured to let Circle eventually manage that reserve inside its own federally supervised bank, rather than relying on outside institutions to hold the collateral that makes a stablecoin stable.

- **GENIUS Act.**
  The July 2025 federal stablecoin law that wrote formal rules for issuers. Circle's charter push was partly built to comply with it — regulation pulled the industry toward bank charters, not away from them.

WHY IT MATTERS

- **The bridge is now federal.**
  A federally supervised bank sitting between the world's largest regulated stablecoin and the traditional system is what institutional counterparties — Circle already cites Visa and BlackRock partnerships — have been waiting for. The crypto-dollar rail now has a federal address.

- **It is not just Circle.**
  Ripple, Fidelity, Paxos and BitGo won conditional charters in the same December 2025 round. A regulated crypto-banking layer is forming — and charters, slow and expensive to win, may become the industry's moat.

- **Structure is not price.**
  CRCL closed Friday at $66.14 (+4.97% on the day), still roughly 75% below its 2026 high of $262.97. A charter legitimizes the rails; it does not restore the multiple. Crypto-adjacent equities remain creatures of liquidity — the same liquidity this issue's divergence story is draining.

> *The read. Charters are plumbing, and plumbing is boring — until you notice it decides where the money flows. The stablecoin rails just moved inside the regulated perimeter, with four more firms queued behind Circle. File this one under structural, not tradable: the asset that got de-risked this week is USDC, not CRCL.*

Charter details from Circle's July 10, 2026 announcement and OCC coverage. CRCL price as of the July 10, 2026 close via Perplexity Finance. Educational content — not a recommendation.

X

Small-Cap Speculation

Four risky mid-and-small-caps · what they do, where they could go, what could break them

Speculation lives in the $100M—$10B band — real news flow, but small enough that a single contract, product cycle, or capital raise moves the equity 30—50%. Four names in structurally interesting corners — drone components, AI optics, RF/quantum, lunar infrastructure — with concrete long-cycle theses and concrete near-term ways to fail. Prices as of July 10, 2026 close.

UMAC

$18.81

Unusual Machines

$634M mcap

DRONES · COMPONENTS

WHAT THEY DO

Drone components and FPV gear — motors, flight controllers, video goggles — through the Fat Shark and Rotor Riot brands, plus a build-out of NDAA-compliant, US-made drone motors in Orlando. One of the only listed pure plays on de-China-ing the small-drone supply chain.

LONG-TERM THESIS

If EO 14307 procurement dollars must flow to NDAA-compliant components, UMAC's domestic motor line sits directly in that flow. Every re-shoring mandate, Blue List expansion, or DJI restriction is a direct catalyst — the component layer wins regardless of which airframe maker takes share.

KEY RISK

Fell 14.8% last week in the drone washout, and the float is thin enough that moves compound both ways. Still burning cash — dilution is the standing risk — and if Part 108 or procurement timelines slip again, a story stock loses its story fast.

AAOI

$119.92

Applied Optoelectronics

$9.62B mcap

AI OPTICS · 800G

WHAT THEY DO

Designs and builds optical transceivers and lasers for hyperscale data centers and cable broadband, with vertically integrated laser fabs in Texas and Taiwan. A legacy 40G/100G vendor reborn on AI networking demand.

LONG-TERM THESIS

The AI buildout's bottleneck is increasingly optical — 800G transceiver demand outruns supply and 1.6T ramps next. If AAOI holds its hyperscaler anchor customers through the 800G-to-1.6T transition, current estimates are too low and the re-rating continues.

KEY RISK

Customer concentration is extreme — a single hyperscaler order pause has historically halved this stock. The 52-week range of $18.50—$233.67 says everything about what the multiple does when the order book wobbles.

AMPG

$6.69

AmpliTech Group

$140M mcap

RF · QUANTUM

WHAT THEY DO

Designs low-noise amplifiers and RF components — including the cryogenic LNAs used to read out qubits in superconducting quantum computers — plus satcom and 5G infrastructure gear. Long Island-based microcap.

LONG-TERM THESIS

Every superconducting quantum computer needs cryogenic low-noise amplification, and AMPG is one of very few merchant vendors of it. With a tiny revenue base, any meaningful design win from a quantum or satcom program moves the needle disproportionately.

KEY RISK

Microcap economics: lumpy, grant-and-program-driven revenue where a delayed order erases a quarter. The 52-week range of $1.64—$10.11 reflects it. Liquidity is thin enough that the exit is its own risk — size accordingly.

LUNR

$16.14

Intuitive Machines

$2.57B mcap

SPACE · LUNAR

WHAT THEY DO

First company to soft-land a commercial spacecraft on the Moon. Sells lunar delivery under NASA's CLPS program, plus data relay and infrastructure services — anchored by a multi-billion-dollar NASA Near Space Network services contract.

LONG-TERM THESIS

NASA is outsourcing the Moon, and LUNR's landers, relay satellites, and services backlog make it the closest thing to a lunar-economy utility. Each successful landing de-risks the model; the services mix shifts revenue from binary missions toward recurring contracts.

KEY RISK

Down 14.6% last week and roughly 65% below its 52-week high of $46.75. Landings are binary — a tipped-over lander has cratered this stock before — and NASA budget politics can reprice the entire backlog in one appropriations cycle.

Prices and market caps as of the July 10, 2026 close via Perplexity Finance. Position sizing note: these are speculative names — asymmetric upside, real single-name blow-up risk. Treat as satellite exposure, not core.

XI

Launch Control

Blue-chip and cult names sitting near clear technical support · where risk/reward turns favorable

Eight liquid, profitable large-caps sitting on meaningful technical zones — the kind of levels where reflexive buyers show up first. Support and pivot levels are derived from the six-month range and moving-average confluence; entries closer to support tilt the risk/reward, a decisive close below invalidates the setup. Prices reflect the July 10, 2026 close.

TICKER	LAST	SUPPORT	PIVOT	THE SETUP
NFLX *Netflix*	$73.37	$70.9–73	$80	Sitting on the 52-week-low shelf after a 5.5% down week. The shelf has held every test since April; Thursday's print is the binary. Below $70.9 there is no clean technical floor — this is a catalyst trade, not a drift trade.
META *Meta Platforms*	$669.21	$620–631	$689	Back at recent highs after a +14.8% week — the strongest megacap tape on the board. The $620–631 band is the early-July breakout zone; buy the retest, don't chase the print at $669. AI ad load is the leg.
CRM *Salesforce*	$163.32	$150–155	$180	The June low of $150.12 held, and the stock has stair-stepped higher since. At roughly 12x earnings — the lowest multiple in a decade — downside is valuation-cushioned; reclaiming $180 re-opens the upside gap.
NVDA *NVIDIA*	$210.96	$205–210	$224	The old $205–210 pivot is the new support after an 8.3% breakout week. The June–July high at $224.36 is next resistance; holding above $205 keeps the quality-leadership trade fully intact.
AMAT *Applied Materials*	$602.50	$570–585	$650	Closed Friday +2.35% and roughly flat on the week while the tape churned. $570–585 is the pre-breakout consolidation top from May. TSM's Thursday print is the sympathy catalyst for the whole WFE complex.
MU *Micron*	$979.30	$900–950	$1,050	Held flat (+0.4%) through a brutal week for memory sentiment. $900–950 is the prior breakout base. The SK Hynix ADR is the new swing factor — a hot listing validates memory multiples; a cold one caps them.
TER *Teradyne*	$359.60	$340–355	$400	Third consecutive down week — testing the $340–355 support zone right now. The June low of $343.11 held on the first test; a decisive close below invalidates. AI-driven ATE spend remains the multi-year setup.
ORCL *Oracle*	$140.68	$134–138	$160	The July 2 low of $140.27 is being tested from above, with $134–138 right below. Retail mentions +147% this week — a capitulation flush and reclaim of $150 stays the double-bottom trigger. Framework unchanged, untriggered.

SUPPORT is the price band where prior buyers repeatedly stepped in — the level a setup needs to hold for the thesis to stay live. PIVOT is the reclaim level that would confirm the reversal is working — a close through it re-engages upside targets. Levels derived from the January–July 10, 2026 daily range and moving-average confluence. All names have positive trailing EPS, average daily volume >$1B notional, and no known solvency overhangs.

These are technical setups, not recommendations. Support levels can break; assume any single name can lose 15–25% from entry if the broader tape rolls over. Size accordingly and honor invalidation levels.

XII

The Tactical Read

Positioning the week · what to do with the score

> *"With the score at 4.9, the job this week is surviving Tuesday morning with your book intact. Add risk on evidence — a cool core print — not on hope."*
>
> — The Pre-Market editorial read, Sunday July 12, 2026

LEAN INTO

- Quality megacaps holding breakouts (NVDA above $210)
- Banks on post-print dips — setup is strong into Tuesday
- Rate-sensitives (XHB, IWM) if core CPI prints cool
- Drone accumulation zone — staged adds, not one entry

TRIM / HEDGE

- High-beta exposure before Tuesday's 8:30 AM CPI
- META into strength after a +14.8% week
- Memory names against SK Hynix ADR supply
- Long duration while the 30Y holds above 5%

AVOID / WATCH

- Chasing NFLX into Thursday — binary, crowded
- Yen-carry-adjacent leverage — ¥162 is the tell
- Low-float drone/space names until momentum turns
- Chasing oil names into Hormuz headlines

THE PRE-MARKET

Sunday, July 12, 2026 · Week of July 13—17

Real-time equity data via Perplexity Finance. Analyst consensus and price targets aggregated across sell-side coverage. WSB mention data via ApeWisdom and AltIndex; tone read from Quiver Quant and SwaggyStocks. Macro odds: CME FedWatch.